

SENATE RESOLUTION
8667

By Senators Prentice, T. Sheldon, Jacobsen, Swecker, Winsley, Parlette, B. Sheldon, Fraser, Spanel, Rasmussen, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles

WHEREAS, In 1855 the Wenatchi Tribe was party to the 1855 Walla Walla Treaty which guaranteed the tribe fishing, hunting, and gathering rights; and

WHEREAS, Article 10 of the 1855 Treaty authorized a reservation of approximately 20,000 acres for the Wenatchis near the mouth of the Icicle River; and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate ratified said treaty on March 8, 1859; and

WHEREAS, The United States failed to survey and establish said reservation and remove it from the public domain; and

WHEREAS, In 1894 the United States again ratified an agreement which guaranteed to the Wenatchi Indians both their rights under the 1855 treaty and at least 20,000 acres of lands in the Icicle River area; and

WHEREAS, As before, the United States failed to take the necessary action to deliver said lands to the Wenatchi Indians; and

WHEREAS, Wenatchi leaders have continuously worked throughout the twentieth century to have the United States recognize their rights and reservation; and

WHEREAS, There still remain more than 100,000 acres of National Forest lands in the area where the Wenatchis' reservation should have been set aside; and

WHEREAS, Today the Wenatchi Tribe is one of the twelve aboriginal tribes of the Colville Confederated Tribes on the Colville Indian Reservation located in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, The Colville Confederated Tribes have been widely recognized for the prowess of their stewardship and programs for the management of forest lands; and

WHEREAS, Putting a tract of forest lands in the Icicle area under Colville Confederated Tribes management for the benefit of the Wenatchi could improve the local economy for both Indians and non-Indians in the area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor the efforts of the Colville Confederated Tribes to have the United States Congress enact legislation that would allow the conveyance of approximately 20,000 acres of National Forest lands in the area of the Icicle River to the Colville Confederated Tribes, to be managed for the benefit of the Wenatchi people.

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr., Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8667,
adopted by the Senate
April 25, 2003

MILTON H. DOUMIT, JR.
Secretary of the Senate